

Never STOP READING!

Building a love of reading

Reading is a skill that is learnt, and needs to be practised. As a parent, you can support your child by helping them read at home.

Here are some great ideas for reading at home as a family.

- Have a special place at home to keep books and other reading materials.
- Encourage your child to choose what they would like to read. Be positive about their choices.
- Let your child see you reading – for enjoyment and to learn.
- Share your reading choices with your child and tell them why you have chosen a particular book or article; what you are reading and what it is making you think about.
- Encourage your child to set aside a regular time for reading each day. Model this yourself so your child sees you as a reader.
- Be interested in what your child is reading, and ask them to recommend books for you to read.
- Visit the local library regularly so your child can browse the huge range of reading materials, and ask the librarian for recommendations.
- Encourage your child to find things to read about their favourite topics. Explore together different formats such as audio books and graphic novels.
- Try out books in a series. If your child gets ‘hooked’ by the first book, they are more likely to continue reading the series.
- Monitor access to a computer or device, either at home or in the local library so that your child can use the internet.
- Buy books as gifts.
- Swap and share books with family and friends.
- Ask others about what they are reading.



Support what is happening at school

Your children will be reading lots of things at school. Here's how you can tap into what is happening at school.

- Go to class meetings offered by the teacher so you know what the children are learning in different learning areas.
- Talk with the teacher individually about what you can do to help your child.
- Ask your child about the book they have taken out of the school library, for example “Why did you choose that book? and “Is it what you thought it was going to be?”
- Show an interest in work your child may do at home on projects or research.

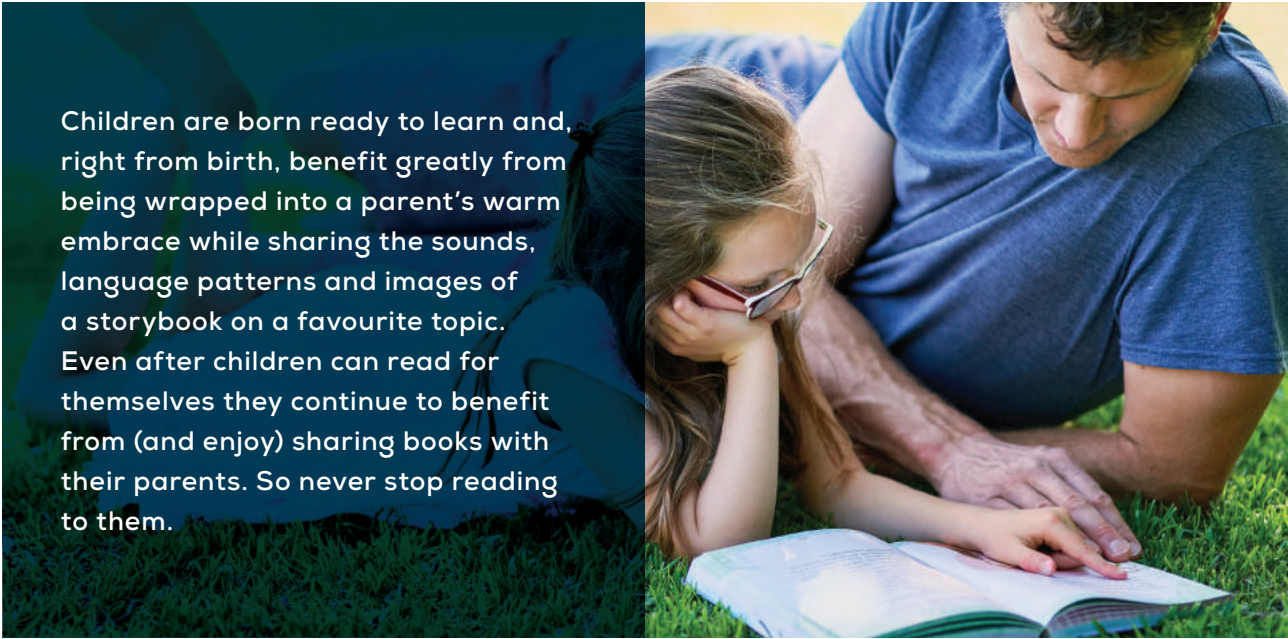
Finding books

Finding the right book for your child is essential to encourage their interest in reading. Your child may enjoy books about people and places that are just like them; or they may enjoy fantasy and mystery stories. Consider choosing books about your child's interests, where you live or your culture.

Give your child the opportunity to experience a range of different things to read including fiction, non-fiction, plays, poetry and short stories.

If English is not your child's first language, it is valuable to encourage them to learn words and read in their first language.

Visit your school or local public library to see the wide range of wonderful children's books you can borrow.



Children are born ready to learn and, right from birth, benefit greatly from being wrapped into a parent's warm embrace while sharing the sounds, language patterns and images of a storybook on a favourite topic. Even after children can read for themselves they continue to benefit from (and enjoy) sharing books with their parents. So never stop reading to them.

Never Stop Reading! encourages families to read aloud even when their children can read by themselves.

Research shows that reading aloud improves children's knowledge and vocabulary, as well as their writing and comprehension. By listening to their children read aloud, families are supporting their children's learning, and increasing their confidence and sense of security.

Reading to, and with children, also has social and emotional benefits – promoting a positive mood and sense of wellbeing.

The terms 'book' and 'story' are used generally to refer to what you are reading and what it is about. You can read aloud with your children anywhere – at home and out and about – and use a range of items including books, brochures, song lyrics and cookbooks.